National Folk Dance Festival 1960

THE National Folk Dance Festival was held this year on Jan. 27 and 28 at the National Stadium, New Delhi. On Jan. 27 troupes from ten states of the country presented folk items in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Nepalese Prime Minister, Mr. Koirala, Lady Mountbatten and some members of the Soviet delegation, who were then in the capital.

The first day's programme began with Manipuri *Dhumen Pung Chalom.* The same state's another item *Kasol Khulam* depicted a dance by victorious Nagas returning from a fight with their enemies. The other items were *Rang Godia* by Tripura. *Ghusada* by Bombay (Maratha) team related to a dance by *Sadhus* to drive away evil spirits, Pondicherry's *Pinnal Attam,* Jammu and Kashmir's *Chhajja,* Kerala's *Kaliattam* Mysore's *Chakke iade Kolata,* Orissa's *Ghumra,* Assam's *Khasi* dance and Bihar's *Lohsna Thoyel.*

Eleven States participated in the next day's programme, which included: A musical item by Mysore, *Rangma* by N.H.T.A., *Bodo* by Assam, *Holi* by Bombay (Gujerat), *Shant, Lilma* and *Grugati* by Himachal Pradesh, *Bhangra* by Punjab, *Apa Tani* by N.E.F.A: *Chavittu Natakam* by Kerala, *Meena* by Rajasthan, *Pandava* by Uttar Pradesh and *Gaur* by Madhya Pradesh.

The troupe from Madhya Pradesh won the first prize for its *Gaur* dance, and got the Sangeet Natak Akademi's running Trophy. The Manipuri troupe was given a special prize (in the shape of a cup) for its *Dhumen Pung Chalom* dance. Five other prizes (plaques) were awarded to the troupes from Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and to the Assam troupe which performed the *Khasi* dance.

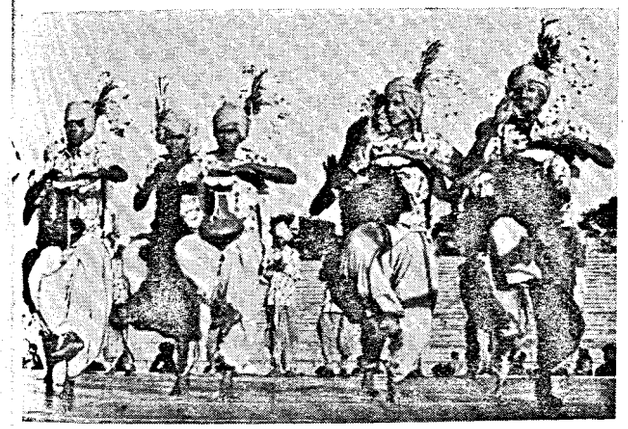
The prizes were given away by Prime Minister Nehru.

... pictures overleaf

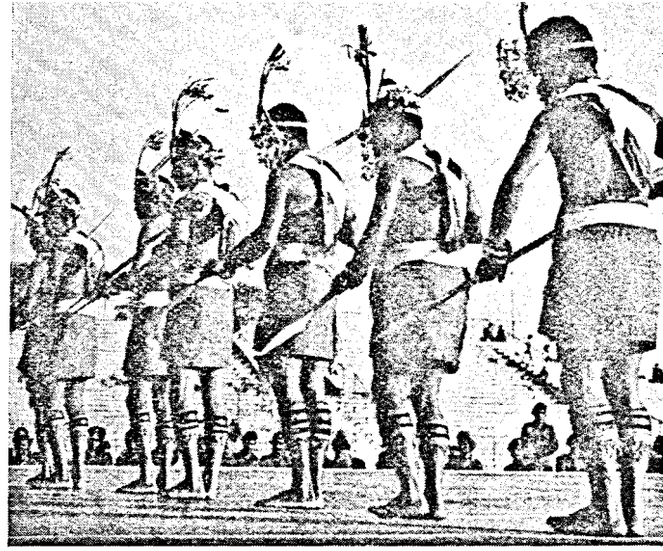
FOLK ANCES IN PITURES

Boisagu Dance of
Bodo Kacharis of Assam

Kaliyattam (Theyyam) Dance of Kerala



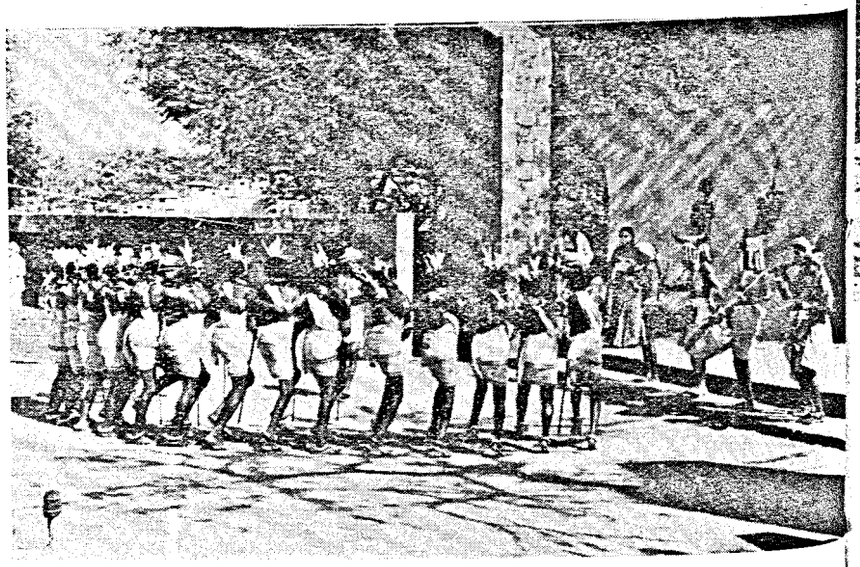
Ghumura Dance
of Orissa



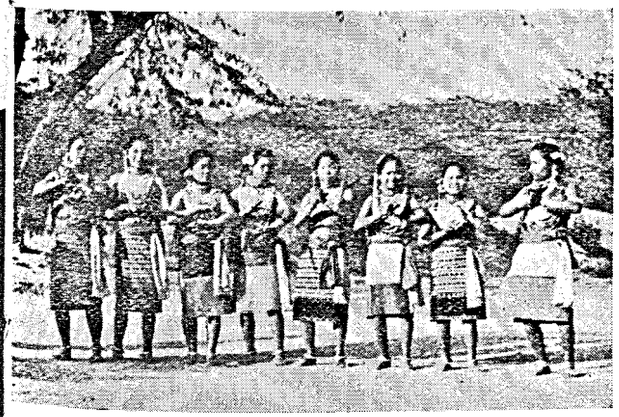
Kasom Khulen
Dance of
Tangkhul Nagas,
Manipur

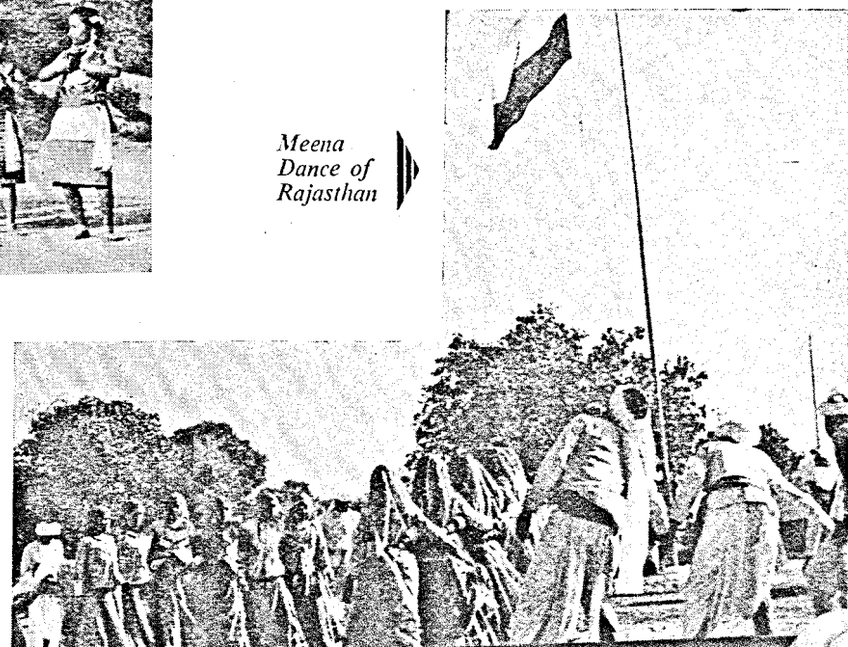
Photos by GOVIND VIDYARTHI

vasi Dancer's
m Bombay



Gaur Dance of Madhya Pradesh



Riang Godia
Dance of Tripura

Meena
Dance of
Rajasthan